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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 001490

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EB/ESC/TFS - GLASS
STATE FOR S/CT - NAVRATIL
TREASURY FOR OFAC - NEWCOMB
TREASURY FOR ZARATE
TREASURY FOR FINCEN - SHOWELL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/14/2015

TAGS: [ETTC](#) [EFIN](#) [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [CVIS](#) [XM](#) [BR](#) [LE](#) [LVPR](#)

SUBJECT: TERRORIST FINANCE - BARAKAT: BRAZIL TO LOOK FOR
BARAKAT ASSETS

REF: STATE 124995

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Richard Virden, Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (C) On June 8, Emboff delivered reftel notice of the USG intention to freeze Assad Ahmad Barakat's assets to Marcus Rector, the acting head of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry's Office for the Combat of Illicit International Activities. Rector said the GoB would welcome hard evidence of a Barakat financial link to terrorism. He added that, even absent such evidence, the GoB would like to be helpful in this case and would explore ways that any known Barakat assets in Brazil might be frozen based on the Paraguayan tax-evasion charges. After consulting with a Ministry of Justice colleague, Rector reported that a Brazilian judge could order such a freeze should Brazil receive an official (presumably Paraguayan) request.

2. (C) In a follow-up meeting June 15 with both Rector and his newly-returned Office Director, Marcos Pinta Gama, the GoB reps repeated their request for any hard evidence the USG could share, both of Barakat's financial links to terrorism and of any assets he might have in Brazil. Pinta Gama stated that it would be useful to establish, in the first instance, whether any such assets existed. He suggested that FinCen could initiate this process by making a request through its direct information-sharing channel with COAF, the Brazilian financial intelligence unit. When pressed, Pinta Gama agreed to ask that COAF direct a search for any such assets while deferring discussion of what to do with such assets until their existence had been established.

3. (C) Comment: Pinta Gama's agreement to look into any assets Barakat may have in Brazil is welcome, though such holdings are probably so well disguised that they'll be difficult to identify. We will continue to follow up, including next week in a scheduled meeting with the Deputy Minister of Justice. Any further specifics the Department can provide about suspected Barakat assets and/or tri-border links with terrorist financing would be appreciated.

HRINAK